STs and the women categories? Here, the hon. Minister has stated that there is no reservation for women categories. So, I would like to know whether there is any reservation for women in the new guideline policy or not.

श्री दिग्शा जे॰ पटेल: सर, एस॰सी॰, एस॰टी॰ के लिए भी रिजर्वेशन है और वूमेन केटेगरी के लिए भी जो कोई केटेगरी है उसमें वन थर्ड वूमेन केटेगरी के लिए रिजर्व है। इसलिए कोई केटेगरी नहीं रखी गई, ऐसा नहीं है। जो केटेगरी हैं उसमें वूमेन केटेगरी भी वन थर्ड उसके लिए रिजर्व रखी गई है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Development of Konni as major eco-tourism project in Kerala

*383. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Kerala has proposed to develop Konni as a major eco-tourism proejct;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the outlay involved in the project;

(c) whether it is a Centrally funded project;

(d) whether the Centre proposes to encourage such projects in the backward States *i.e.* Orissa, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar etc. to improve their economy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

The State Government of Kerala had submitted a project proposal of Rs. 999.90 lakh with Central Financial Assistance of Rs. 800.00 lakh for Integrated Development of Eco-Tourism circuit on Neyyar-Ponmudi-Thenmala-Konni-Gavi-Thekkady-Munnar-Chinnar-Parambikulam-Nelkliampathy sector in Kerala. After appraisal of the project proposal as per guidelines of the Ministry of Tourism, it was sanctioned on 7.12.2006

?FA of Rs. 581.78 lakh. This included the component for development ·ni for an amount of Rs. 55.78 lakh.

,id (e) Development and promotion of tourism in the country is a ,iuous process. From the Tenth Five Year Plan the Ministry of Tourism ,as been providing central financial assistance to the State Governments/ UT Administrations on the basis of project proposals prioritised in consultation with them every year under the following schemes including eco-tourism proejcts:

(1) Development of Tourist Circuits

(2) Product Infrastructure & Destination Development

(3) Large Revenue Generating Projects

(4) Fairs & Festivals

During the Tenth Plan period (till date), the Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned projects worth Rs. 161643.32 lakh for integrated development of tourism in the country, which also includes projects for Eco-Tourism development. This would provide impetus to sustainable tourism development in the country.

The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned funds for the States of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Orissa during the 10th Plan period (till date) which includes the projects for development of Eco-Tourism also:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Total amount sanctioned during the 10th Plan
1.	Bihar	6617.57
2.	Chhattisgarh	5883.11
3.	Jharkhand	3324.09
4.	Orissa	5568.75

Upgradation of Patna Airport

†*388. SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to upgrade the Jai Prakash Narayan Airport at Patna in Bihar into an international airport;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.